

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9493

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GR TU

SUBJ: TURKISH-CONTRACTED SHIP (GOEL I) IN GREEK TERRI-
TORIAL WATERS--DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS

REF STATE 159779 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A MEETING I HAD TODAY WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER BITSIOS ON OTHER SUBJECTS (SEPTELS) I TOOK THE
OCCASION TO DRAW ON THE CONTENTS OF REFTEL CONCERNING
THE RECENT UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY OF THE TURKISH-CONTRACTED
SHIP (GOEL I) INTO GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS. I TOLD BITSIOS
THAT ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER STAVROPOULOS HAD TAKEN THIS
SUBJECT UP WITH ME ON JULY 3 AND THAT THE MATTER HAD NOW BEEN
FULLY INVESTIGATED. I EXPLAINED WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL AND TOLD BITSIOS THAT THE SHIP'S
MASTER APPARENTLY MISINTERPRETED HIS COMPANY'S INSTRUCTIONS
NOT TO ENTER GREEK WATERS TO MEAN THAT HE SHOULD NOT "SHOOT-
OR UNDERTAKE RESEARCHES IN GREEK WATERS BUT THAT HE
EVIDENTLY ASSUMED IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT TO ENTER GREEK WATERS
INNOCENTLY FOR TURN-AROUND PURPOSES. I TOLD HIM THAT US
AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN BY
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THE COMPANY TO PREVENT THIS KIND OF INCIDENT FROM HAPPENING

AGAIN. I ALSO EXPRESSED OUR REGRET ABOUT THE INCIDENT, SAYING THAT AS WE KNEW WE WERE DOING OUR UTMOST TO TRY AND ASSIST BOTH THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES IN THE AEGEAN.

2. BITSIOS TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF MY COMMENTS AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR OUR PROMPT INVESTIGATION OF THE MATTER AND OUR ASSISTANCE. HE SAID IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE TO HIM THAT GIVEN ALL THE PUBLICITY ON THIS MATTER THAT THE GOT THE COMPANY AND THE SHIP'S MASTER COULD HAVE ALLOWED THE GOEL I TO ENTER GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS--FOR ANY REASON WHATEVER--WITHOUT CONTACTING APPROPRIATE GREEK AUTHORITIES IN ADVANCE. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT THE GOG WAS PREPARED TO LET THE MATTER DROP--ALTHOUGH I GOT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THERE WOULD BE ALL HELL TO PAY IF IT HAPPENED AGAIN.

3. COMMENT: IN MY OPINION IT WAS A NEEDLESS AND STUPID PROVOCATION. KUBISCH

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